GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:275
ANSWERED ON:04.08.2016
Ecological Impact Assessments
George Shri (Adv.) Joice;Rajesh Shri M. B.

Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Highway projects have been/are delayed due to late submission of Ecological Impact Assessments (EIA), if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Government has drawn any mechanism to speed up the process and if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether several NH projects have been shelved for want of environmental clearance and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the corrective steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

(SHRI MANSHUKH L. MANDAVIYA)

(a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 275 ANSWERED ON 04.08.2016 ASKED BY ADV. JOICE GEORGE AND SHRI M.B. RAJESH REGARDING ECOLOGICAL IMPACT ASSESSMENTS.

(a) to (d) No project is delayed at present due to late submission of Ecological Impact Assessments (EIA). Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is a part of the project preparation. The process of EIA starts with the feasibility studies and culminated with preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR). In order to avoid unnecessary delays in environment related clearances, the persistent pursuance is done with the Ministry of Environment and Forest (MoEF). The process of environment clearances has been streamlined by MoEF by taking important decisions as given below:

â€¢ Process of environment clearance and forest clearance was delinked by MoEF facilitating parallel processing of clearance proposals.
â€¢ The requirement of specific ToRs for highway widening projects has already been dispensed with.
â€¢ The threshold for triggering the requirement of environment clearance has been relaxed up to the limit of 100 km length. In addition, above this length, projects requiring additional land acquisition up to 40 m for widening and up to 60 m on the realignments are also exempted.
â€¢ MOEF has delegated the powers for linear projects to Regional Empowered Committees (RECs).

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